THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The funds under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana are released in instalments commensurate with the progress reported by the implementing agencies. The first instalment against the sanctioned project is released on confirmation by the implementing agency of its readiness for release of turnkey contract within a week.

So far Rs. 106.58 crore has been released to Uttarakhand but Himachal Pradesh has not availed the funds under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). State-wise details of funds, disbursed under RGGVY as on 19-2-2007 are given as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

	Amount disbursed under RGGVY			
State	During 2004-05	During 2005-06	During 2006-07 upto 9-2-2007	Total
Uttarakhand	-	59.44	47.14	106.58
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-

(b) Yes, Sir. The implementing agencies have reported full utilization of funds disbursed to them under RGGVY.

(c) and (d) projects sanctioned for Uttarakhand for which funds have been released are for the districts of Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Bageshwar. Electrification of all the un-electrified villages and providing access to electricity to all rural households in the country, including Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, is targeted to be completed by 2009.

New company/agency for power plant equipment

99. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to establish one more power company/agency for producing power plant equipments or achieving Ministry's ambitious Mission 2012—Power for all;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken for getting required power plant equipments at affordable cost and environment friendly?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) NTPC is exploring the possibility of entering into a strategic partnership with Transformers and Electricals Kerala Ltd. (TELK), a Government of Kerala owned Public Sector Undertaking engaged in manufacturing of Transformer and allied electric equipment and services related thereto. In this regard, an Expression of Interest has been signed with TELK on 18th August, 2006. A joint working group, comprising representative from NTPC Ltd., TELK and Government of Kerala has been constituted to carryout the due-diligence.

Power situation in the country

100. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several industries are closing down their units due to adverse situation of load-shedding in the country;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the power generation situation in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the percentage of increase in power demand annually in the country, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) how much of power generation capacity has been improved since 2004 and the State-wise targets fixed for power generation till March, 2008?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No specific information is available regarding closing down of industries due to load shedding in the country. During the current year (April, 2006 to January, 2007), peaking shortage of 13978 MW (13.9%) and energy shortage of 53156 MU (9.3%) was experienced in the country. Peaking shortage of 4573 MW (26.7%) and energy shortage of 15475 MU (17.4%) was there in Maharashtra during the same period.